

Wisconsin Wrestling Federation
Board of Directors Meeting
Wisconsin Dells
September 7th, 2025

Todd called the meeting to order at 10 am. Roll call was completed. Members in attendance: Todd Schaaf, Matt Verbeten, Jeff Jones, Hollie Satona, Mike Errthum, Joleen Bonte, Brett Van Vooren, Randy Dusing, Scott Peltier, Brian Suchocki, Terry Stone, Chris Persike, Neysa Bianchi, Mel Dow, Erick Lehrke, Ernie Millard, Newton Smerchek, Scott Kluever, Sandy Russell, and Gabby Lord-Klein.

First order of business was the budget. Close to \$1.8 million in total for Wisconsin Wrestling Federation. Highlights of the budget were that the membership income increased. Assisting with offsetting venue cost for state events and opportunities for participants. Biggest expense will be WWF Youth Folkstyle State and Junior Team Duals. It was stated that after hosting Junior Duals, we have learned of unknown costs that were not clear last year during budgeting. One thing to note is that the additional costs do outweigh the travel cost if WWF were to send teams to travel out of state to compete. There was great feedback for hosting the duals in Milwaukee.

Before budget approval, Todd brought up for discussion to update Scott Kluever's title from State Coach to State Coach/Executive Director to help define the roles and responsibilities he has taken on and secure an understanding for anyone who wishes to pursue this position in the future. Jolene made a motion to amend the State Coach title to State Coach/Executive Director. Terry seconded the motion. All approved.

After approval of title update, Todd asked for a motion to approve the budget. Hollie motioned to approve the proposed budget and Newton seconded. All approved.

Gabby gave a year in review for WWF and the successes that happened. Highlights of Gabby's review:

- 40 All Americans at Fargo-Girls 16U doubled their All Americans from previous year.
- WWF is striving to build team mentality with the girl divisions, not to offer just opportunities, but to enhance championship teams.
- 15th year of girls competing in WWF Youth State Folkstyle tournament.
- Mirasola twins both took Bronze at U20 Worlds
- Upcoming changes with Fargo schedule

Scott spoke about site visit at Eau Claire. Men's division have outgrown the facility at River Falls. Details to follow visit. It was also noted that Gabby was asked to attend Worlds to

assist with social media throughout the event for USA Wrestling. Although logistics did not work in favor for her to attend, it is still an honor to be asked.

Jeff discussed all tournaments hosted by WWF and went over some upcoming changes and updates to these events. In addition to WWF hosting Junior Duals, we will also be hosting Northern Plains this upcoming year and Dominate will now be hosted at the La Crosse Center alongside WIAA Team State.

WWF Team State will move to Dome in the Dells. This will accommodate the increase of 60 teams at State tournament in 2025. There are hopes to build a girls team division as well. It was also noted that the two divisions will be 3rd-5th grade and 6th-8th grade. The participants must stay within their grades and not move kids up divisions to wrestle. This was emphasized for directors sharing with coaches at their district meetings to build team strictly to those divisions. Also, teams must stay within their jurisdiction and practice regularly to be considered on the team.

WWF Qualifiers will be held on March 21st, 2026. There are additional weight classes for the heavy weight classes to avoid needing to use plus groups in each division. It was also brought to all directors' attention that all host teams need to have medical on site during the tournament. Brett discussed adapting a form for skin conditions that parents can proactively have filled out form doctor prior to tournament weigh ins. A question regarding gender was asked and WWF definition is determined by birth gender. It was also stated that you should not question a participants gender to avoid any legal issues. The qualifiers will be running USA Bracketing platform and State tournament will use Trackwrestling. It was confirmed that registration will continue the USA Membership platform for best flow of participants between qualifier and state.

WWF State Tournament will again be held in Madison. All coaches pass and weigh ins will be in the arena next to the colosseum. It was shared that WWF are at capacity and can only bring top 3 qualifiers from each site. The directors were also informed to let all coaches know there will be an increase in security and will have metal detectors for all entries. This is the venue's policy, not WWF. Jeff shared that the pin system will be used at the qualifiers for separations, but there will be no seating at the state tournament.

Freestyle/Greco Beginners State will be at the Dells for the next four years. Entry fee will be \$25 for one style and \$40 for both styles. This will allow a smoother transition from beginner state to regular state for the athletes.

Freestyle/Greco State again will be held at the Dells with a new structure in sessions. Girls will weigh in on Friday between 4-5 and wrestle Friday night. This will help accommodate

the women's camp hosted on Saturday. Brett asked that directors encourage officiating opportunities for coaches, wrestlers, and parents.

Wisconsin is hosting Northern Plains on May 7th-10th. Greco weigh ins will be Thursday night and wrestling on Friday at 9am estimated start time. Freestyle will wrestle Saturday and Sunday with a morning weigh in now hosted at Wisconsin Dells High School instead of at the Dome. On a side note, WWF will have three weekends in a row at the Dome and are able to leave the venue set for all three weeks.

Todd then discussed the adaptation of Eligibility of USA Regionals and National Championships (excluding National Duals) At all USA Wrestling regional and national championships (excluding National Duals), one shall be deemed ineligible if he/she has represented another country (as recognized by the international federation) at continental and/or World Championships. If an individual has represented another country but has since changed his/her sporting nationality to the US with the international federation, the individual shall be eligible for USA Wrestling regional and national championships. Any athlete who represented another nation before 8/31/2025 shall be exempt. Neysa motioned to adapt the Eligibility of USA Regionals and National Championships and Gabby second the motion. All approved.

Next Mel shared high school new tradition of expansion. In 2027, WIAA will host the first girls state team championships. This comes from equality being strongly pushed and expanding state experience. He also shared that adding the wildcard to team state will offer teams within a sectional the opportunity to compete for the state trip. WWF board was informed that USA Bracketing will be adapting across WIAA as their weight management and tournament platform. Another change for WIAA is that the State Team Championship tournament will be held at the La Crosse Center due to the growth with expanded teams. La Crosse can accommodate these changes. While collaborating to enhance spectators to watch the team state by working together with USA Wrestling to bring Dominate to La Crosse Center the same time.

Todd thanked the board for their attendance and dedication to Wisconsin Wrestling. Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting and Neysa seconded. All approved. Meeting Adjourned.